

# Saliba language

**Saliba** (Spanish: *Sáliba, Sáliva*) is an indigenous language of Eastern Colombia and Venezuela.<sup>[3]</sup> Saliba was used by Jesuit missionaries in the 17th century to communicate with indigenous peoples of the Meta, Orinoco, and Vichada valleys. An 1856 watercolor by Manuel María Paz is an early depiction of the Saliba people in Casanare Province.<sup>[4]</sup>

<b>Saliba</b>	
<b>Native to</b>	Colombia and Venezuela
<b>Native speakers</b>	(1,600 cited 1991–2008) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Piaroa–Saliban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Saliba</li> </ul>
<b>Writing system</b>	Latin
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	slc
<b>Glottolog</b>	sali1298 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sali1298">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sali1298</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

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## Use

"Saliba was spoken by an ethnic group that lived along the central reaches of the [Orinoco River](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

"This language group was so isolated that the language was reported extinct in 1965."<sup>[6]</sup> It is not being passed on to many children, but that practice is being reconsidered. As of 2007, "Sáliva speakers now are almost all bilingual in [Spanish](#), and Sáliva children are only learning Spanish instead of their ancestral language."<sup>[6]</sup>

As of 2007, "In the [Orocué](#) area the language is only conserved to a high degree among elderly women; others understand Sáliva but no longer express themselves in the language."<sup>[1]</sup>

## Grammar

"Sáliva is an SOV language with noun classes and nominal classifiers. The language has a rich morphological system. In some cases, the realization of a verbal morpheme depends upon the form of the stem."<sup>[3]</sup>

## Phonology

"Sáliva has a limited voicing distinction, and boasts six places of articulation for plosives. There are also two rhotics, and nasal counterparts for each of the five places of articulation for vowels."<sup>[3][7]</sup>

### Consonants

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar		Glottal
					nor.	lab.	
<b>Stop</b>	Plain	p	t		k	kʷ	?
	Voiced	b	d		g	gʷ	
<b>Affricate</b>				dʒ̪			
<b>Fricative</b>	Plain	ɸ	s		x		h
	Voiced	β					
<b>Nasal</b>		m	n				
<b>Rhotic</b>	Flap		r				
	Trill		r				
<b>Approximant</b>		w	l	j			

### Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
<b>Close</b>	i		u
<b>Mid</b>	e		o
<b>Open</b>		a	

## References

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3. "E-MELD School of Best Practice: About Sáliba" (<http://emeld.org/school/case/saliba/about.html>). *E-MELD*. 2005. Retrieved 2013-05-23.
4. Paz, Manuel María. "Saliva Indian Women Making Cassava Bread, Province of Casanare" (<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/9017>). *World Digital Library*. Retrieved 2014-05-21.
5. "A Study of the Saliba Language" (<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/8992/>). *World Digital Library*. Retrieved 2013-05-23.
6. Anderson, Gregory; K. David Harrison (2007). "Language Hotspots - Northern South and Central America" (<http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/langhotspots/hotspots/NSA/>). *Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages*. Retrieved 2013-05-23.
7. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald & R. M. Dixon (1999).

## External links

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- "OLAC resources in and about the Sáliba language" (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/slc>).
- Bilingual Spanish-Saliba dictionary (<http://saliba.caroycuervo.com/>)

## Dictionaries and vocabulary

- "Sáliba wordlist with audio" ([http://www-01.sil.org/~simonsg/Saliba/presentation/SLC\\_wordlist.htm](http://www-01.sil.org/~simonsg/Saliba/presentation/SLC_wordlist.htm)).
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## General works

- Frank, Paul S.; Nancy L. Morse (1997). *Lo más importante es vivir en paz: Los sálibas de los Llanos Orientales de Colombia* ([http://www-01.sil.org/americas/colombia/pubs/Vivir\\_en\\_paz.pdf](http://www-01.sil.org/americas/colombia/pubs/Vivir_en_paz.pdf)) (PDF). Bogotá: Editorial Alberto Lleras Camargo. Retrieved 2013-05-24.
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